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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

BENZIE, CLARE, KALKASKA, LAKE, LEE LANAU, MANISTEE,
MECOSTA, MISSAUKEE, OSCEOLA, ROSCOMMON, WEXFORD

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES
VICE-CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT
VICE-CHAIR, HISTORY, ARTS, AND LIBRARIES
COMMERCE AND LABOR
FINANCE

Clear guidelines will improve cyclist-motorist relations

Sen. Michelle McManus

Legislation currently before the governor seeks to clear up any confusion about the rights and responsibilities of cyclists so everyone can share our roads safely. My bill, Senate Bill 1224, would make Michigan a more bicycle-friendly state by establishing fair and concise guidelines for bicyclists and motor vehicles.

Cyclists and motorists have long shared Michigan roadways. In fact, Michigan's many scenic byways are best appreciated behind the wheel of a bicycle. However, ambiguous rules and ignorance on the part of both motorists and cyclists have made this relationship an often difficult one.

The bill maintains the current standard that cyclists can ride on the road two abreast of each other and provides exceptions to the rule that cyclists must remain in the right hand lane. These include:

- Passing another bicycle;
- Turning left;
- Avoiding obstacles in the lane;
- Riding on a one-way street (can be on either side of the road); and
- Going straight when the right lane is a turn lane.

The bill also states that a cyclist who is lawfully riding on a sidewalk or crosswalk has all of the rights of a pedestrian in the event of an accident with a motorized vehicle.

Senate Bill 1224 is a great example of what happens when all the parties involved in an issue can come together, air their differences and reach consensus. As members of the bicycling community know, the legislation currently before the governor is very different from what was originally proposed. We were able to develop legislation that balances the needs of both cyclists and motorists thanks to their efforts.

I believe everyone should be able to share Michigan roadways, and this bill allows for that to occur by establishing clear, common sense guidelines for bicyclists and motorists on Michigan roads.